

# Goals and Policies

## Introduction

Monroe County's short and long-term goals and policies are developed during the budget process each year. The BOCC discusses trends, capital projects and policy priorities at public meetings held during the budget planning phase and these priorities are further refined and clarified during the budget preparation and adoption phases of the budget process in the late spring and summer of each year. The BOCC tries to strike a prudent balance between service needs and financial ability to pay for those services. Following is discussion of the primary goals and policies adopted by the BOCC:

## County-wide Long-term Goals and Policies

The County developed and received approval from the State of Florida for the *Monroe County Year 2010 Comprehensive Plan*. Major goals articulated in the plan are:

- **Future Land Use** - Monroe County shall manage future growth to enhance the quality of life, ensure the safety of County residents and visitors, and protect valuable natural resources.
- **Conservation and Coastal Management** - The environmental quality of the air, water, marine resources and habitat, wetlands, upland vegetation, beaches and berms, wildlife and wildlife habitats, soil and mineral resources, potable water, historic resources shall be protected and where possible, enhanced.
- **Traffic Circulation** - To provide a safe, convenient, efficient, and environmentally compatible motorized and non-motorized transportation system for the movement of people and goods in Monroe County.
- **Mass Transit** - To provide a coordinated surface transportation system for transportation disadvantaged people within Monroe County and to encourage such a system for all residents and guests.
- **Ports, Aviation and Related Facilities** - Monroe County shall provide aviation and port facilities to all existing and future residents and guests in a manner that maximizes safety, convenience, economic benefit, and environmental compatibility.
- **Housing** - Monroe County shall adopt programs and policies to facilitate access by all current and future residents to adequate and affordable housing that is safe, decent, and structurally sound, and that meets the needs of the population based on type, tenure characteristics, unit size and individual preferences.
- **Potable Water** - The County shall support Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority in the fulfillment of their statutory obligation and authority to provide for a safe, high quality and adequate supply, treatment, distribution, and conservation of potable water to meet the needs of present and future residents.
- **Solid Waste** - The County shall provide for the adequate collection, disposal and resource recovery of solid waste in an environmentally sound and economically feasible manner to meet the needs of present and future County residents.
- **Sanitary Sewer** - The County shall provide for the adequate, economically sound collection, treatment, and disposal of sewage which meets the needs of present and future residents while ensuring the protection of public health, and the maintenance and protection of ground, nearshore, and offshore water quality.
- **Drainage** - Monroe County shall provide a stormwater management system, which protects real and personal properties, and which promotes and protects ground and nearshore water quality.
- **Natural Groundwater Aquifer Recharge** - The County shall protect the quality and quantity of water in the potable water aquifer and in the freshwater lens systems so as to ensure public health, conserve the public water supply, and preserve ecosystems dependent upon freshwater.

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- **Recreation and Open Space** - Monroe County shall provide a recreation and open space system to conserve valuable natural resources and to provide recreational opportunities adequate to serve the present and future population of Monroe County; including permanent residents and visitors.
- **Intergovernmental Coordination** - The County shall promote and encourage intergovernmental coordination between the County, the County municipalities, Dade and Collier counties, regional, state, and federal governments and private entities in order to anticipate and resolve present and future concerns and conflicts.
- **Capital Improvements** - Monroe County shall provide and maintain, in a timely and efficient manner, adequate public facilities for both existing and future populations, consistent with available financial resources.

### County-wide Short-term Goals and Policies

In order to achieve long-term goals, several key short-term goals and associated policies are established by the BOCC each budget year. The key short-term goals are:

- Increase code enforcement for transient rentals and FEMA downstairs enclosure problems.
- Maintain fund contingencies, reserves and fund balances forward for each of the ad valorem tax supported funds.
- Maintain and improve the Worker's Compensation and Group Insurance funds.
- Increase maintenance and upgrade existing parks.
- Further enhance and upgrade the County's computer network systems.
- Consolidate and standardize volunteer fire service training, equipment and finances.
- Improve efficiency of Growth Management Permitting Process.
- Design and construct a New Judicial Building in Key West.
- Design and construct a wastewater treatment system to serve Big Coppitt, Key Largo and South Stock Island.
- Design and construct a new Medical Examiner Facility.
- Renovate Mariner's hospital for a new Tavernier Department of Health office and Sheriff's sub-station.
- Design and construct a neighborhood park on Big Pine Key.
- Design and construction of an upper keys government center.
- Courtroom renovations in Marathon and Plantation Key.
- Construction/ Renovation of fire facilities in several areas throughout Monroe County.
- Construction of a new terminal building at Key West International Airport.